

## Message Text

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ORIGIN STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

OMB-01 STRE-00 /098 R

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AGRICULTURE:BTISCH

STATE:BBARRACLOUGH:INFO

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P 222342Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: JAPANESE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN CITRUS

1. AMBASSADOR DENT EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, THAT IF THERE IS NOT A SOLUTION TO THE CITRUS FUNGICIDE SITUATION SOON, THE PROBLEM COULD AFFECT OTHER ASPECTS OF U.S.-JAPANESE RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR DENT HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT THIS PROBLEM HAS EXISTED SINCE LAST APRIL WHEN JAPAN STARTED RETESTING AMERICAN CITRUS. THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED THIS WITH PRIME MINISTER MIKI LAST JULY DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. SUBSEQUENTLY, SECRETARY

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BUTZ AND AMBASSADOR DENT BROUGHT THIS PROBLEM TO THE ATTEN-

TION OF MINISTER ABE WHEN HE WAS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABE PROMISED HE WOULD GIVE IT HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESOLUTION.

2. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS ONE OF THE UNCERTAINTY IN THE TRADE. THERE ARE DELAYS AND UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM INSPECTION BACKLOGS AND FROM THE POSSIBILITY THAT IMPORTS WILL BE INELIGIBLE TO ENTER JAPAN. WHEN A SHIP IS LOADED IN FLORIDA IT CARRIES A SUBSTANTIAL VALUE OF FRUIT. FRUIT SHIPPERS HESITATE TO RISK SUCH AN INVESTMENT IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAIN CONDITIONS.

3. THE CITRUS GROWERS ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED IN VIEW OF THE ALREADY EXISTING QUOTAS WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH GATT. SO FAR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTAIN THE CITRUS GROWERS FROM TAKING ACTIONS BECAUSE THE U.S.G. HAS BEEN ABLE TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE PROBLEMS WERE BEING FOCUSSED UPON AND RESOLUTIONS WERE ANTICIPATED.

4. AMBASSADOR DENT INVITED AMBASSADOR YASUKAWA TO COME IN, NOT IN THE EXPECTATION OF REACHING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM BUT TO COMMUNICATE HIS GRAVE CONCERN. WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE A ROCKY ROAD IN OUR TRADE RELATIONS ESPECIALLY AT THE TIME WHEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY IS BEGINNING TO COME TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. WE DO NOT WANT A REPETITION OF OUR PROBLEM IN THE WHALE AREA, FOR EXAMPLE. HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE IS PROGRESS MADE SOON THIS MAY BE UNAVOIDABLE.

5. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE PROBLEM WAS CAUSED BY THE FACT THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FUNGICIDE REGULATION WAS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE AND NOT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. CONSUMER SENSITIVITY TO REGULATIONS PROTECTING THE HEALTH STANDARDS FROM FUNGICIDES AND ADDITIVES MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT TO MOVE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THE GOJ HAD REQUESTED ADDITIONAL MATERIAL TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A POSITIVE FUNDING THAT THE FUNGICIDES ARE NOT THREATENING HEALTH STANDARDS. HIS ENVIRONMENTAL MAN IN WASHINGTON, SAWAMURA, IS TRYING TO GET THE MATERIAL. THE AMBASSADOR WILL ASK HIM TO EXPEDITE HIS WORK.

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6. AMBASSADOR DENT CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF OUR CITRUS INDUSTRY FILING A COMPLAINT UNDER OUR DOMESTIC PROCEDURES INCREASES EACH DAY THE PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED. AS THE FLORIDA HARVEST HAS BEGUN AND WILL REACH HIGH GEAR IN FEBRUARY, A SOLUTION SHOULD BE FOUND IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. THE FLORIDA CITRUS GROWERS WILL VISIT AMBASSADOR DENT ON JANUARY 12, AT WHICH TIME IT

WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IF SOME FAVORABLE INDICATION CAN BE  
GIVEN TO THEM. KISSINGER

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